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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN ANGOLA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda items 123 and 159 appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/52/547 and Add.1.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the items at its 62nd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/385/Add.1 and Corr.1 and A/52/799/Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.37

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Ireland and coordinator of the informal consultations on items 123 and 159, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" (A/C.5/52/L.37) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 7, the words "operational and substantive" were deleted before the word "requirements";

(b) Operative paragraph 8, which had read:

"8. Takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the procurement process in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission",

was replaced by the following text:

"8. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General and the annex thereto containing the observations and recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the procurement process in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission";

(c) The square brackets around operative paragraph 10 were deleted;

(d) Operative paragraph 13, which had read:

"13. Notes with concern that the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the addendum to the report of the Advisory Committee deviates from the budgetary process contained in Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations",

was replaced by the following text:

"13. Recalls the budgetary process set out in General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

"14. Notes that the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee deviates from Assembly resolution 49/233 A",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(e) In operative paragraph 17 (former paragraph 16), the words "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations".

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Uganda orally amended the draft resolution by replacing operative paragraph 11, which had read:

"11. Further requests the Secretary-General to exercise utmost discipline in financial management to ensure compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, including rule 114.1 on personal responsibility and financial liability",

by the following text:

"11. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that every official of the United Nations is responsible to the Secretary-General for the regularity of the actions taken by him or her in the course of his or her official duties and that any official who takes any action contrary to the Financial Rules, or to the administrative instructions issued in connection therewith, may be held personally responsible and financially liable for the consequences of such action".

6. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.37, as orally revised and amended, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission[1] and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola[2] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III), 1118 (1997) of 30 June 1997, by which the Council decided to establish, as from 1 July 1997, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, and subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1164 (1998) of 29 April 1998,

Recalling its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/8 B of 31 March 1998,

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[1] A/52/385/Add.1 and Corr.1.

[2] A/52/799/Add.1.

[3] A/52/860/Add.8.

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 90,306,237 United States dollars, representing 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Verification Mission to the period ending 30 June 1997 and from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 30 April 1998, notes that some 21 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General[4] and the annex thereto containing the observations and recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the procurement process in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly before the second part of its resumed fifty-third session a report on the status of implementation of measures taken or initiated to address appropriately the issues, observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[5] and other related actions taken by the Observer Mission and the Secretariat;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all managers exercising financial responsibility are issued the revised and updated version of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that every official of the United Nations is responsible to the Secretary-General for the regularity of the actions taken by him or her in the course of his or her official duties and that any official who takes any action contrary to the Financial Rules, or to the administrative instructions issued in connection therewith, may be held personally responsible and financially liable for the consequences of such action;

12. Recalls its request to the Secretary-General in its resolution 49/218 of 23 December 1994 to include full implementation of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations as a specific performance indicator in the performance appraisal of all managers;

13. Recalls the budgetary process set out in General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

14. Notes that the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee[6] deviates from Assembly resolution 49/233 A;

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[4] A/52/881.

[5] A/52/881, annex.

[6] A/52/860/Add.8.

15. Takes note of the intention of the Advisory Committee[7] to submit in due course its comments and observations to the General Assembly on the unencumbered balance of 3,564,300 dollars gross for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

16. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to utilize the amount of 2,204,300 dollars from the unencumbered balance for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 to meet incurred expenses for the same period that have not yet been recorded;

17. Decides also to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola an initial amount of 45,899,080 dollars gross (44,301,680 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998, inclusive of the amount of 2,299,080 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

18. Decides further, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 45,899,080 dollars gross (44,301,680 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 among Member States at a monthly rate of 11,474,770 dollars gross (11,075,420 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1998, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 30 June 1998;

19. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,597,400 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998;

20. Decides also that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 3,564,300 dollars gross (1,999,400 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

21. Decides further that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 3,564,300 dollars gross (1,999,400 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

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[7] A/52/825, para. 12.

22. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the items entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission" and "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola".